

# 47<sup>th</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR

## Capital Credit Retirements – Benefits From Your Cooperative



*Tim Stewart  
CEO / General Manager*

It is my privilege to announce that the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a \$675,419.17 capital credit general retirement to be made this year. This marks the 47th consecutive year that a capital credit retirement has been made totaling in excess of \$17,341,000 being returned to the membership since inception.

As a rural electric cooperative member, you are part owner of Clark Electric Cooperative. Basically, you've pooled your money with thousands of other members and created equity for your rural electric cooperative to buy electricity and provide services at an affordable cost.

fect the cooperative's capital credits assigned in 1988 and 1989 and the Dairyland Power Cooperative capital credits assigned for 1985.

### Load Management Helps Reduce Costs

I would like to spend the rest of this month's article discussing load management and the important role that load management plays in controlling costs for all of our members.

The Dairyland Power Cooperative's load management system is an extremely valuable tool in curtailing load during peak periods. By allowing a load control device to be installed on your electric water heater, electric heating system, air-conditioning system, or other large controllable loads, you can help control increasing generation and transmission costs. In 2009, DPC estimates that the load management program realized savings in excess of \$9.4 million systemwide. Clark Electric Cooperative members saved an estimated \$377,000 over what costs would have been without the program. Please call our office for more details on the load management system. ■

### Clark Electric Board of Directors Approve \$675,419 in Capital Credit Retirements

As a locally owned business, Clark Electric Cooperative is committed to the people, businesses, and communities we serve. Because we are member owned and operated, one of the fundamental principles we follow is a commitment to returning your investment. This is done in the form of capital credits. Since Clark Electric Cooperative operates on a not-for-profit basis, we return margins to members and former members through the capital credit allocation and retirement process. The amount returned is in relation to the individual member's transactions with the cooperative. Capital credits are returned to cooperative members on a rotating schedule. Currently the cooperative is retiring 4 percent of our allocated capital and applying that amount against the oldest capital credits assigned to the members. This retirement will af-

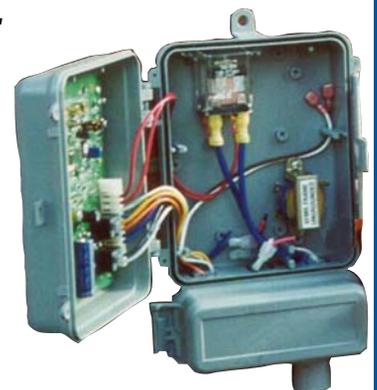
## Load Management Your Device to Savings

Electric Water  
Heating Credits

Electric  
Heating Rates

Air  
Conditioning  
Rates

Contact Us for More Information



# Scholarship Opportunity Doubles

## Positive Changes Made for This Year's Applicants

Clark Electric Cooperative is again preparing for our annual scholarship awards to be presented to graduating students from local schools in our service area. This year there has been a major change to the scholarship program. A second \$1,000 scholarship for each school or group of schools in our service area has been made available this year.

Applications will be ready for students and sent to the schools at the beginning of 2010. Scholarship applications will also be posted on our web site. **All applications will need to be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Friday, February 26, 2010.**

To be considered for the scholarship, the student's parents or legal guardian must be members of the cooperative and receive electricity at their primary residence from Clark Electric Cooperative. The student must also follow the directions on the application, as this is a very competitive process. Winners are chosen by an independent scholarship committee.

You can find scholarship applications on our web site, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), or at your local school. If you have questions, please call our office at 715-267-6188 or 800-272-6188. And good luck to all the students who apply. ■

### Eligible Schools for Scholarship Consideration

Abbotsford High School	Colby High School	Granton High School
Greenwood High School	Loyal High School	Marshfield Senior High School
Neillsville High School	Owen-Withee High School	Pittsville High School
Spencer High School	Thorp High School	Stanley High School
Stratford High School	Columbus High School	Osseo-Fairchild
Medford High School	Gilman High School	Abbotsford Christian Academy
Home School Student		



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THE HOUSE SINCE I SET OUR  
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## These are Tough Economic Times

### Which We Haven't Seen for Decades

#### What could climate change legislation cost my family?

The **economy-wide** impact of climate change legislation will be **far greater** than the electric cooperative costs shown here. All energy-dependent goods and services will see **cost increases**, impacting American consumers from many directions, including a significant risk of **American job loss**.

### SAFETY FIRST

#### Grant & Loan Program Available for Farmers

- A loan/grant combination is available up to \$20,000.
- Grants are available for 20 percent or up to \$4,000 from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.
- Loans are available for 80 percent or up to \$16,000 from your electric cooperative.
- Take up to 5 years to repay.
- 5 percent interest applies.

#### Requirements

- Dairy farms only
- Existing farmstead
- Pre-program inspection
- Electrician's estimate
- Service agreement for length of loan
- Credit eligibility requirements

A lot of people are struggling to make ends meet. Many of us have seen businesses cut back operations or close altogether, and have family and friends who are without work for the first time in their lives.

As our members face these economic hardships, we know we also need to help solve climate change. But we need to make sure the fix is fair to our members.

Right now, the federal government is working on a plan to reduce our collective carbon footprint—the amount of greenhouse gas emitted by industries, power plants, transportation, and other sources. We must be sure the approach our country takes treats all Americans fairly—including our cooperative members and neighbors. ■

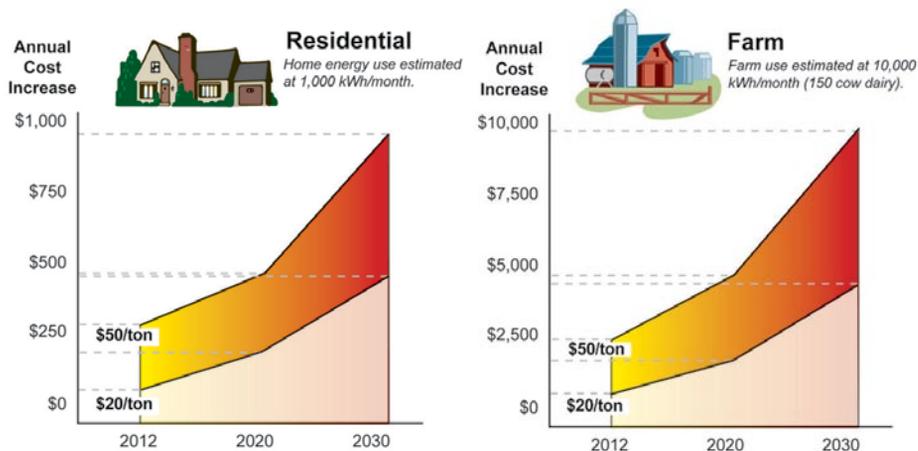
#### "Cap & Trade" ...What is it?

**Cap:** A national annual limit or "cap" on greenhouse gas emissions. The cap lowers incrementally from 2012 to 2050.

**Trade:** Any emissions above the cap must be eliminated or traded on a new energy market. Emissions are traded by purchasing "allowances" and the market sets the price of allowances.

**Allowance:** The government-sanctioned right to emit one metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> during a year.

These graphs from Dairyland Power Cooperative (our wholesale power supplier) show the estimated yearly increase in electricity cost for cooperative members due to Waxman-Markey climate change legislation. The cost could vary substantially based on volatile market conditions, with greater increases possible than the estimates provided.



If carbon credits cost \$20/ton in 2012, and escalate 4% annually, by 2030 a residence will have cumulatively paid \$3,900 more for electricity and a farm will have paid \$37,000 more.

If carbon credits cost \$50/ton in 2012, and escalate 4% annually, by 2030 a residence will have cumulatively paid \$9,800 more for electricity and a farm will have paid \$93,000 more.

# Earn Cash-Back Rewards When You Upgrade To Energy-Efficient Appliances

Starting January 1, Wisconsin residents will have the opportunity to earn Cash-Back Rewards for purchasing energy-efficient appliances, such as furnaces and water heaters, to replace older, inefficient models.

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy resource, will offer the rewards through its State Energy-Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP). Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, SEEARP encourages Wisconsin residents to replace their old, inefficient home appliances with energy-saving models that have earned the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® label.

Under SEEARP, residents are eligible to earn Cash-Back Rewards (\$50 - \$2,000) when they purchase qualifying energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, boilers, central air conditioners, furnaces, heat pumps, solar hot-water systems, and water heaters to replace existing models. Reward amounts vary by the type of appliance replaced.

At the time of purchase, residents will receive a mail-in reward application from their retailer or contractor. (Beginning January 1, applications will be available for download through the Focus Web site at [focusonenergy.com/recovery](http://focusonenergy.com/recovery).) Residents will then have 30 days to complete the application and mail it to Focus on Energy with a copy of the purchase receipt.

SEEARP offers Rewards for solar hot-water systems, too. To qualify, residents must submit an application to Focus on Energy to ensure the solar hot-water system meets program requirements. Upon approval, consumers will have 60 days to purchase the system, install it, and submit the final invoice.

Proof of recycling is required for appliances that contain refrigerant, such as central air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers. Customers can contact Focus to review their recycling options, which include recycling via:

- Recycling via program approved retailers
- Recycling via municipal programs, utility programs, or private recycling services
- Recycling via contractors

Appliances containing refrigerant, such as refrigerators, freezers, and central air conditioners, will require proof of recycling to be eligible. Customers can contact Focus on Energy to review their recycling options, which include programs offered by utilities, municipalities and cooperatives, contractors, and approved retailers.

To learn more about the State Energy-Efficient Appliance Rebate Program and how you can earn Cash-Back Rewards for upgrading to energy-efficient appliances, call Focus on Energy at (800) 762-7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com/recovery](http://focusonenergy.com/recovery). Clark Electric Cooperative also has incentives on certain Energy Star Appliances, check our web site under incentives to get more information; [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com).



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